

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

SECRET

Control 16003
Recd: OCTOBER 22, 1962
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Action
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Info

FROM: PARIS

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1901, OCTOBER 22, 9 PM

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ELITE

EYES ONLY FOR THE SECRETARY

DEPTEL 2304.

I ACCOMPANIED MR. ACHESON THIS AFTERNOON WHEN HE CALLED ON PRESIDENT DE GAULLE AT FIVE PM LOCAL TIME. MR ACHESON BEGAN CONVERSATION BY PRESENTING PRESIDENT DE GAULLE WITH COPY OF PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONTAINED DEPTEL 2304. HE ALSO HANDED PRESIDENT DE GAULLE PART ONE OF PRESIDENT'S SPEECH SINCE OTHER SECTIONS NOT YET RECEIVED BY EMBASSY. HOWEVER, THEY WILL BE DELIVERED TO PRESIDENT DE GAULLE'S CHEF DE CABINET AS SOON AS RECEIVED.

PRESIDENT DE GAULLE READ BOTH COMMUNICATIONS CAREFULLY AND THEN REMARKED THAT HE WOULD WELCOME FURTHER ELUCIDATION BY MR. ACHESON.

MR. ACHESON OUTLINED BACKGROUND OF PRESENT SITUATION IN CUBA, REASON FOR PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED ACTION, GOING INTO CONSIDERABLE DETAIL, EMPHASIZING THAT MAXIMUM BUILDUP HAD OCCURRED WITHIN PAST WEEK, AND SAYING THAT HE HAD MR. SHERMAN KENT WITH HIM WHO WAS PREPARED TO BRIEF PRESIDENT DE GAULLE IN MORE DETAIL.

PRESIDENT DE GAULLE LISTENED WITH OBVIOUS INTEREST AND THEN REMARKED THAT

REASON

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-C- 1901, OCTOBER 22, 9 PM, FROM: FAPIC

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-3- 1961 OCTOBER 22, 9 PM. FROM: PARIS

PRESIDENT DE GAULLE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR HAVING BEEN INFORMED BY PRESIDENT. HE SAID THAT HE REALIZED THIS HAD BEEN DONE AFTER DECISION HAD BEEN MADE, BUT NEVERTHELESS APPRECIATED BEING INFORMED. HE SAID HE WOULD REPLY TO PRESIDENT'S LETTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT MEANWHILE IF MR. ACHESON SAW PRESIDENT PLEASE EXPLAIN DE GAULLE'S APPRECIATION AND TELL HIM HE WOULD BE REPLYING TO HIS MESSAGE.

PRESIDENT DE GAULLE SAID THAT IN THIS SERIOUS TIME IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT GOVERNMENTS KEEP IN CLOSE CONTACT. THIS WOULD BE DONE IN WASHINGTON THROUGH AMBASSADOR ALPHAND AND THROUGH AMBASSADOR BOHLEN WHEN HE ARRIVES HERE SHORTLY. PRESIDENT DE GAULLE

AT THIS POINT MR. KENT WAS CALLED INTO ROOM TO BRIEF PRESIDENT DE GAULLE. PRESIDENT DE GAULLE WAS OBVIOUSLY VERY INTERESTED IN BRIEFING AND SHOWED KEEN INTEREST, ASKING PERTINENT QUESTIONS, WHICH REVEALED HIS MILITARY BACKGROUND. IN ADDITION TO SPECIFIC TECHNICAL QUESTIONS, HE INQUIRED AS TO CUBA'S SELF-SUFFICIENCY WITH RESPECT TO FOOD, PETROLEUM, ETC.

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-4- 1961, OCTOBER 22, 9 PM, FROM: PARIS

PRESIDENT DE GAULLE INQUIRED WHAT COUNTRIES WERE BEING INFORMED IN SIMILAR MANNER. MR. ACHESON REPLIED UK, FRANCE, GERMANY.

PRESIDENT DE GAULLE WAS FRIENDLY, RELAXED AND DEEPLY INTERESTED. HE APPRECIATED SIGNIFICANCE OF SITUATION RAPIDLY, AND OBVIOUSLY FOUND HERE SUBJECT WHICH INTERESTED HIM CONSIDERABLY. HIS CHEF DE CABINET WAS EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE IN MAINTAINING SECRECY OF INTERVIEW, AND WE DROVE TO ELYSEE IN ELYSEE MOTORCAR AND WERE TAKEN IN BACK DOOR TO AVOID ANY LEAKAGE TO PRESS OF MR. ACHESON'S VISIT.

LYON

DM

NOTE: Advance copies to SS-0 10-22-62 CWO-M

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